in Rajasthan. Timelines for these projects can be worked out only after completion of the detailed techno-economic feasibility study of the projects and once the investment decision is firmed up.

Shortage of Kerosene

2232. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any action has been taken to increase the kerosene supplies and to control the massive price increase due to shortage of kerosene as on today;

(b) if so, the details including the quantity of kerosene supplied to States for curbing the shortage and the present price of per litre kerosene as on today, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken to ensure adequate supply of kerosene through public distribution system to overcome the shortage and the quantity of kerosene provided to various States to overcome the shortage as on today, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) to (c) PDS kerosene has been allocated to States/UTs on a historical basis. In accordance with the policy adopted by the Government of India in 2000., Kerosene (SKO) allocation for distribution under the Public Distribution System (PDS) was reduced every year beginning 2001-02 till 2003-04, taking into account the number of LPG connections released in each State/Union Territory. While the initial allotment for 2004-05 was based on the criteria adopted hitherto, additional allocations were made during the year to meet urgent emergent demand. For the year 2005-06, allocations have been maintained at the level of 2004-05, including additional allocations made during that year. Details of State-wise allocation of SKO for distribution under PDS for the year 2005-06 is given in the enclosed statement (See below).

The price of kerosene differs from State to State based on the freight, octroi, sales tax etc.

With a view to assessing the genuine demand requirement of kerosene in different States/UTs, the Government commissioned in December 2004 the first-ever comprehensive study of the subject through the National Council for Applied Economic Research (NCAER). NCAER

have submitted their report in October 2005. It is being examined with a view to rationalizing the allocation of PDS kerosene amongst States/UTs.

Effective 2nd October 2005, Government launched the Jan Kerosene Pariyojana as a pilot project in 417 blocks covering 23 States and one Union Territory for a period of six months with a view to strengthening and streamlining the infrastructure for kerosene distribution and involving the Gram Sabhas and Gram Panchayats and State Panchayati Raj Institutions in the supervision of PDS kerosene distribution, so as to ensure that entitled beneficiaries actually receive their entitlement and diversion to adulteration and black-marketing is capped, reversed and eventually eliminated. The pilot project is being concurrently evaluated by NCAER and, on the basis of the experience gained, Government will determine the possibility and desirability of extending the Pariyojana to cover all blocks in the country.

Statement

Allocation made during the year 2005-06

(Figures in MTs)

Name of States/UTs	Quantity Allocated
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	5816
Andhra Pradesh	517158
Arunachal Pradesh	9257
Assam	258007
Bihar	647430
Chandigarh	13067
Chattisgarh	146938
Dadra & Nagar Haveli	2782
Daman and Diu	2118
Delhi	168484
Goa	19212
Gujarat	743759
Haryana	145619
Himachal Pradesh	50537
Jammu and Kashmir	76044
Jharkhand	211175
Karnataka	461478
Kerala	216308

Name of States/UTs	Quantity Allocated
Lakshadweep	795
Madhya Pradesh	488609
Maharashtra	1276876
Manipur	19907
Meghalaya	20401
Mizoram	6217
Nagaland	13312
Orissa	314977
Pondicherry	12257
Punjab	237192
Rajasthan	398913
Sikkim	5582
Tamil Nadu	558929
Tripura	30832
Uttar Pradesh	1241772
Uttaranchal	89849
West Bengal	752103
TOTAL	9163712

Exploration of Natural Gas in Tripura

2233. SHRIMATI LAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of natural gas that is explorable for consumption all over the country, State-wise;

(b) the quantity of natural gas now being used every day on the average in the State of Tripura;

(c) the quantity that will be consumed by the proposed Palatana and Monarchak Thermal projects everyday on the average;

(d) whether there is any assessment of further exploration of natural gas in newer areas of the State of Tripura;